

May 4, 2009

**STATEMENT FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRAIL RIDERS.**

DEAR HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES,

MY NAME IS VICENTE CASTELLANOS AND I AM AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY AND FOR DELTA COLLEGE.

I, PRESENTLY, SERVE ON THE ADVISORY BOARDS OF REGION VII AGENCY ON AGING AND ON THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF AGING. *and my wife is a member of exceptional riding organization, which is for people that are disabled;*

TODAY, I AM HERE AS A MEMBER OF THE MICHIGAN TRAIL RIDERS AND AS A MEMBER OF THE SHORE TO SHORE TRAIL RIDERS. AND, I HAVE RECENTLY JOINED THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN IN AN EFFORT TO HELP SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF HB4610.

I AM SPEAKING ONLY FOR MY SELF WITH THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

IN 1806 WHEN CONGRESS CREATED THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN WE HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED THE RIGHT TO RIDE OUR HORSES IN THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE. BEFORE THE FIRST FORD OR THE OLDS WAS BUILT IN MICHIGAN, HORSES WERE THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND HELPED US MOVE THE LUMBER AND ALL OTHER HEAVY EQUIPMENT.

I LISTENED TO THE DNR AND THEY KEPT SAYING THINGS LIKE THE HORSES ARE DISRUPTIVE TO THE ELK AND THEY ALSO DESTROY THE FISHING HABITATE.

WHEN THE DNR WAS ASKED FOR DOCUMENTATION TO PROVE THESE THINGS, THEY COULD NOT DELIVER THESE DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW. I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THESE POINTS AGAINST THE TRAIL RIDERS ARE, NOTHING MORE THAN, DISTORTIONS, AND UNTRUE STATEMENTS.

I CHALLENGE THOSE THAT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE NOT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TO PLEASE SHOW US THE PROOF THAT DEFINITELY ESTABLISHES THAT HORSES ARE NOT NATURAL TO THE PIGEON RIVER AND BEYOND.

WITH OUR 80,000 MEMBERSHIP AND MORE, <sup>*to me starts*</sup> YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE ARE AN 8 BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY THAT SUPPORTS THE SMALL TOWNS IN THIS STATE. AND AT 6% TAX, THE STATE RECOVERS, APPROXIMATELY, 4~~1~~0 MILLION DOLLARS.

NOW, I HAVE HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT LOSING 25 MILLION DOLLARS IF WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RIDE OUR HORSES IN THE STATE AND FEDERAL FOREST LANDS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS DOCUMENTATION WHICH STATES UNEQUIVALENTLY THAT THIS IS A FACT OR IS THIS ONLY INTERPETATION OF THOSE OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT ENJOY RIDING HORSES IN THE FORESTS OF MICHIGAN...

FINALLY, LET ME CONCLUDE BY SHARING WITH YOU THAT I HAVE SEVER PARKINSON'S AND, YET, I CAN STILL RIDE MY HORSE AND I INTENT TO DO THE SHORE TO SHORE RIDE ON MY HORSE ACROSS MICHIGAN THIS JUNE. I WILL BE DOING THIS NOT JUST BECAUSE I ENJOY RIDING BUT ALSO AS A FUND RAISERS FOR THOSE PEOPLE THAT HAVE PARKINSON'S.

I AM HOPING AND PRAYING THAT SOME DAY THE DOCTORS WILL FIND A CURE FOR THIS DIEASE BUT IN THE MEAN TIME I WILL CONTINUE TO RIDE MY HORSE, WOODY, AS LONG AS YOU WILL LET ME.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PASSEGE OF THIS HB 4610.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO BE SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION.

VINCE